

Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center (CCRLC)

Mission and Goals Statement

The mission and goals of the CCRLC are grounded within the context the Natural Resource Challenge (<http://www.nature.nps.gov/challenge/index.htm>) and were developed through interactions and feedback from researchers, park managers, resource personnel, interpreters, and educators who participated in a Roundtable in May 2003. The Roundtable was designed specifically to solicit input on their needs and vision for the newly established Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center. Enhancing research, helping to make that research useful to the park, and disseminating results are the three cornerstones of the CCRLC goals.

Mission: *to initiate and facilitate learning and scientific inquiry in and about the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem so that communities, both regional and global, can make informed decisions as stewards of the region's vast repositories of cultural and natural resources.*

Center Goals:

- 1) *Attract and facilitate research in Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park and the surrounding Crown of the Continent Ecosystem (CCE)*
 - a) Build and strengthen partnerships with universities and other science organizations
 - b) Encourage the use of parks as research laboratories by providing visiting researchers with necessary accommodations
 - c) Identify gaps in existing knowledge and solicit research to fill them
- 2) *Encourage and support science-based management decisions toward protection of CCE cultural and natural resources*
 - a) Facilitate communication and information exchange among park managers, resource specialists, research scientists, interpreters, and educators
 - b) Foster collaborations that fit specific management needs for environmental information into broader research contexts
 - c) Identify, synthesize, and disseminate research results that address management needs
- 3) *Coordinate educational and outreach initiatives that transfer up-to-date knowledge about park resources to the public*
 - a) Develop and maintain a web enabled "virtual" park Learning Center that presents research results and real-time access to ongoing projects in the CCE
 - b) Provide hands-on opportunities for high school to adult learners to become involved in park research
 - c) Promote the integration of CCE resource information into standards-based curricula through teacher training workshops and partnerships with public schools and other educational organizations

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